

named April. This calf represents the 23rd Asian elephant birth at the CEC. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service granted the Ringling Bros. CEC with F2 status in 2007, which essentially designates the elephants as a self sustaining herd as a result of successful reproduction.

While the ivory trade remains a threat to the Asian elephants, a loss of habitat continues to plague elephant populations throughout south and southeast Asia. Estimates indicate that only about 30,000 Asian elephants live in the wild today. Conservation programs to protect this species are vital and must be supported throughout the world and Ringling Bros. has been among the leaders in advocating and supporting conservation of the Asian Elephant.

I have had the honor of visiting the Ringling Bros. CEC and seeing—first hand—the important work completed and the care provided to these elephants. The success of the Ringling Bros. CEC and the commitment Ringling Bros. maintains to saving Asian elephants has contributed greatly to conservation efforts throughout the world.

I applaud the efforts of the Ringling Bros. CEC and their staff of trained professionals on the remarkable success of this important facility over the last 15 years. The progress they have made in growing the Asian elephant population is remarkable and I am proud that such amazing work is being done within the 12th Congressional District.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Ringling Bros. CEC on their 15th anniversary and the contributions they have made to the conservation of the Asian elephant.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE DAY OF PRAYER TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF THE GULF COAST

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to lend my voice in support and recognition of the Day of Prayer to benefit the people of the Gulf Coast, which is scheduled to take place this Sunday, July 18, 2010, in Alabama.

As every Member of the House knows, the April 20th explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig caused the loss of life of 11 rig workers and is the cause of the largest oil spill in our nation's history. The aftermath and impacts of this disaster will be felt for many years to come. The destruction of the coast and the industries that depend on the coastal fishing and seafood industries as well as the tourism industry, has displaced and caused the loss of jobs and income for hundreds of thousands of families along the Gulf Coast.

Those who are struggling to make ends meet and to provide for their families deserve our thoughtful consideration at this difficult time.

The collective prayers and support of faith based ministries, institutions and congregations, can make a direct difference in the lives of those devastated by the oil spill, by connecting directly with families affected by the disaster.

In this spirit, I urge the people of the United States to pray for a solution to the gulf oil spill,

each according to his or her own faith, and to join many in South Alabama who will mark July 18, 2010 as a day of prayer for those suffering in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

#### CONGRATULATING SOUTH AFRICA ON FIRST TWO CONVICTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2010*

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1412, a Resolution Congratulating the Government of South Africa upon its first two successful convictions for human trafficking.

Since June 11, South Africa has been hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The global event has attracted nearly half a million visitors to South Africa. In the midst of this worldwide sports event, concerns of human trafficking have been renewed.

Now, more than ever, children in South Africa are vulnerable to trafficking. The government has closed schools for the duration of the World Cup, leaving many children untended throughout the day. Yet, South African law enforcement has been working overtime in a joint effort with the international community to combat human trafficking.

I congratulate South Africa on its first two successful convictions for human trafficking. However, much is left to do. I call on the South African government to promptly adopt the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill to aid in future investigations. Trafficking by tourists must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing our dedication to human rights and justice in South Africa by supporting this Resolution.

#### STORY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE SURVIVORS: MARY HASESIAN AND HER HUSBAND ARTIN (HAROUTYOUN) SAMANLIAN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through

the Armenian Genocide Congressional Record Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Below is one of those stories:

Mary Samanlian Poladian's grandmother, Mary Hasesian, married Artin (Haroutyoun) Samanlian when she was 16 years old—it was Artin's second marriage and Mary's first marriage. They were from the city of Marash. From Mary Samanlian Poladian on behalf of her grandmother, grandfather and ancestors:

"My grandfather's first wife had died and left behind an 8-year-old daughter named Siranoush, and a 7-year-old son named Panos. After a year of marriage, my grandmother was already expecting a child.

"One evening, when the French army left the city, the Turkish army armed with knives and axes attacked the city before sunrise. The Armenian people were still asleep. My grandfather and grandmother were awakened by the noises and realized that they should run to safety. They immediately took the children and got out their home to go to the nearby church. On their way, the Turkish soldiers fired at them from far away. Panos cried in pain when one of the bullets struck his leg. His father carried him, and they all continued walking towards the church. Not long after, my grandmother began to feel pain, and she knew she was ready to deliver her baby.

"When they reached the church, my grandmother gave birth to a baby girl who she named Zarouhi. The church was full of people, and sadly my grandmother and grandfather lost each other. During this time, she also found out that Lutfia and Gulen, two of the nine sisters, had been burned alive in the furnace with their husbands and children. With no sign of her husband, she carried her baby and asked her husband's son and daughter to hold her skirt as they walked out of the church with the rest of the people.

"Now, they had to walk from Marash to Aleppo (Syria). The weather was cold and it began to snow. They ate snow when they felt hungry. It was a long way and they were exhausted. Panos's pain was not subsiding as well. Eventually, they all made it to Aleppo, where they joined other Armenian refugees. An Armenian priest sent them, as well as three other Armenian women and their children, to Damascus by train. In Damascus, they lived together in an old house.

"One day, some Armenians and Americans came and took the children to the orphanage. My grandmother was devastated. As time passed by, good news sparked a ray of hope in her life. Three years later, there was a knock on her door, and guess who it was? My grandmother fell on the ground unconscious when she saw her husband standing in front of the home. After she absorbed what had happen, he told her that he had been looking for them for a long time, and was told by some relatives that they had heard of them coming to Aleppo. He immediately brought back his children from the orphanage, and they went to Beirut where my father Georgie was born. Years later, they were also blessed with two daughters.

"They named their two daughters Lutfia and Gulen in memory of my grandmother's sisters who lost their lives during the Armenian Genocide."